



Medicaid Plan Press Conference

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

March 6, 2013

Good morning!

**I'm excited to be here with so many great doctors and nurses
...**

**It is an honor to stand with you as we push forward together
on an issue of Medicaid restoration that is critical to the
citizens of Arizona.**

**We're fortunate to live in a state with the nation's gold-
standard Medicaid program: AHCCCS.**

AHCCCS patients receive care at institutions like the Arizona Burn Center ... Phoenix Children's Hospital ... and Barrow Neurological Institute.

What sets these facilities apart are the dedicated health care professionals who work in them – doctors and nurses like those who've joined me today.

You are truly on the front lines delivering cost-effective health care to Arizona families.

And you know better than anyone the growing crisis facing Arizona families and hospitals due to the large number of uninsured in our community.

Arizona's great health professionals -- like the ones with us today – give their best to each and every patient ... regardless of who is paying the bill.

Of course, doctors and nurses know that sickness and injury can happen to anyone – regardless of whether they have health insurance or access to treatment.

The human cost of this tragedy can't be calculated. The financial cost is something we've become all-too-familiar with.

I call it the Hidden Health Care Tax – the expense we all pay as the costs of uncompensated care are passed along to the rest of us.

It works out to nearly Two Thousand Dollars per year for the average Arizona family.

With my plan, we can begin to get a handle on these costs.

We can do this while making sure low-income Arizonans get the care they need – including preventative care that keeps small problems from growing into costly health emergencies.

Remember: there is no Plan B.

If we don't do this, more than 50,000 Arizonans will lose their Medicaid coverage on January 1, 2014 ... even if they're in the middle of treatment.

My Medicaid Plan will prevent people from losing their coverage and protect our critical hospitals ... all at no cost to the General Fund!

Thank you for being here.

I'd now like to turn it over to the men and women who've devoted their lives to health care in Arizona.